

## EDITORIAL MESSAGE

# Let Us Serve God

## Andrew Torigian



# **NEWS**

is a publication of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. Tel. (201) 265-2607; Fax (201) 265-6015 E-Mail: amaa@amaa.org; Website: www.amaa.org The AMAA is a Tax Exempt, not for profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)

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### **COVER PICTURE**

The Armenian Evangelical KG in Talin, Armenia Sponsored by the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (I Peter 4:10).

Thanks to the efforts of all staff members, and the guidance and direction of our Board of Directors headed by our forward-thinking President Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, we have been establishing a vision which will have the following objectives: Continue building a foundation to enhance the AMAA for future generations; challenge our new members to step up to the plate and take an active role in the mission of the AMAA; create an environment that will make our various endeavors flourish; and carry on the tradition of our forefathers who have brought the AMAA to its current high standing among our Armenian people.

We will pursue higher performance from our team by providing the proper atmosphere and leadership to energize them and get their peak performance, all the while focusing on our main goal: To spread the Gospel, the Good News, to the world.

Through the cooperation, good will and joint projects of our mission partners, we plan to carry out our mutual goals.

As we enter this New Year, let us remember what G. K. Chesterson said. "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found hard and not tried." Anyone who reads this statement would not want to say that they have never tried Christianity because it is hard. But if we were to ask ourselves a few questions, we may have to question our Christianity.

We know that the Christian is called to love everyone. We need to question ourselves — do we? It's also equally true that Christians are called to feed the hungry; to give water to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to invite a stranger into their homes; to visit someone who is sick; and in prison. Yes, Christianity is hard and we sometimes wonder whether or not anyone of us ever tried to live it.

But remember, it's not too late. Let's all try it, one at a time.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations." (Matthew 24:14).





# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC

### 31 WEST CENTURY ROAD, PARAMUS, NJ 07652

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February 2006

### Dear Friends:

Think about it. The love of God for His Son is incomprehensible. Yet, He *willingly* sent Him as our sacrifice that we may be brought back into relationship with Him as His children. What does He ask in return? Let's look at scripture. Matthew 17:5 says, "While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. *Listen to Him!*"

Listen to Him. So, what is it that Christ is saying to us? Possibly the most profound, and the most difficult, command Christ gave us is found in Mark 12:30-31: "Love the Lord your God with *all* your heart and with *all* your soul and with *all* your mind and with *all* your strength....Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Now, we have to ask ourselves, are we going to listen to Him?

Why should we love others? Christ wants us to love because He says so. *Listen to Him!* Matthew 5:46 says, "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?" (Especially at this time of year, when filing our own tax returns is fresh on our minds, we understand the significance of that verse).

At this special time, reflecting on the death and resurrection of our Savior, when we consider how much Christ did for us, let us reflect on our *own* lives. Are we people who love — even the unlovely? How do we show it? There are many, many people around the world who need our love — Who need to know someone does really care. Someone is carrying on the work Christ asks of us — Someone is listening to Him. Is that us? We can listen to Him and start to reflect His love through us by praying for all people, by reaching out to everyone around us, and by financially supporting the work of missions organizations reaching and changing the lives of those less fortunate.

This year, as we celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection appropriated to our lives, let us remember those that still need to experience that joy. Those we need to reach with the love of Christ. Please partner with us to give us the ability to share that joy — To listen to Christ and really make a difference. The needs are great, but all of us together can reach many people, bringing them joy in Christ.

Thank you for your continued generosity. You are an important part of the work of Christ we together are accomplishing. May God bless you abundantly for listening to His Son.

Քրիստոս Ցարևաւ Ի Մերելոց. Օրհնեալ Է Ցարութիւնը Քրիստոսի։ "Kristos haryav ee merelotz. Orhnyal e haroutuneh Kristosi"

(Christ is resurrected from the grave. May his resurrection be blessed).

In Christ's service,

Andrew Torigian
Executive Director

Dikran Youmshakian

Field Director

# AMAA Annual Report Highlights



The Aynilian Health Care Center in Yerevan, Armenia

he invention of the Armenian Alphabet 1600 years ago added the missing block to the foundation upon which the Armenian Christian Heritage was established and which became the necessary means for the survival of our nation.

As we celebrate the 1600th Anniversary of this major accomplishment, we proudly honor our great scholar Mesrob Mashdots for his vision of shaping the written language and salute all those who faithfully kept the language like the "light in their eye." Through a written language the Word of God became easily accessible.

It is only natural that the Armenian Missionary Association of America during the 86 years of its existence, would place added emphasis to both faith and education in its missionary activities.

The listing of the programs supported by the AMAA is a testimony of this reality, and it is our sincere hope that upon their review our readers will be moved to continue with their support and will help the Association remain faithful to its calling.

During the past fiscal year more than 120 projects were supported in 22 countries around the world as follows:

### **Armenia:**

- Regular relief provisions to 2800 orphans and needy children and their families through the AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program.
  - Special relief aid to needy families
  - Operation of an extensive Christian Education program which includes Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools and Youth Groups in 67 different locations in different parts of Armenia.
  - Operation of a modern health care center in Yerevan, and two Dental Clinics in Yerevan, and in Vanatzor.
  - Monthly shipments of milk powder formula for 1000 or more infants with special nutritional needs.
  - Training of Sunday School teachers, youth workers and church lead-
  - Acquisition and/or construction of church facilities.
  - Support for development projects (rug weaving program, poultry farm, dried fruits etc.).
  - Operation of the Theological Academy of Armenia.
- Operation and funding of the Armenian Evangelical Avedisian School in Yerevan.
- Operation and support for 20 kindergartens in Armenia and Karabagh.
- Distribution of heating fuel to impoverished families.
- Orphan/Child Care Programs through which orphanages, schools, nurseries and children's hospitals receive regular assistance.
  - Construction and renovation of school buildings and health care
  - Summer camps for undernourished children and orphans in two locations - Hankavan in Armenia and Shoushi in Karabagh.
  - Vacation and Bible Schools and Day Camp Programs for children.
  - Christmas programs and distribution of Christmas gift packages.
  - Support for the Union of the Evangelical Churches in Armenia and its 65-member congregations and fellowships.
  - Publication and distribution of Bibles and devotional literature.
  - Provision of Bibles and textbooks to schools.
  - Scholarship aid to college and university students.
  - Sponsorship of the ministry of visiting pastors, evangelists and fraternal workers, and short-term missionaries.
  - A wide range of social and spiritual services offered by AMAA's local staff and the Association's resident missionaries.



The Evangelical Church of Armenia in Spitak, Armenia.



Christmas Program at Vanatzor Church, Armenia.

### **Argentina:**

- Relief provisions to needy families and elderly people.
- Distribution of Bibles and devotional literature.

# AMAA at Work Around the World

### Australia:

- Financial assistance towards the budget of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney.
- Distribution of Christian literature.
- Support for the mission of the Armenian Missionary Association of Austra-

### Belgium:

- Funding of the ministry of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Brussels,
- Distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature.

### **Brazil:**

- Support for the ministry of the Igreja Evangelica Armenia de Sao Paulo.
- Provision of scholarships to needy college students.
- Relief provisions to needy families.
- Distribution of Bibles and Devotional literature.

## **Bulgaria:**

- Distribution of Bibles and Christian literature.
- Assistance to the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of Bulgaria (established through AMAA's efforts in 1996) and its member congregations in Varna, Russe, Plovdiv and Sofia.
- Visiting pastors and evangelists.
- Funding of a Summer Youth Camp Program.
- Relief aid to needy families.

### Canada:

- Scholarships for needy and academically worthy college students.
- Financial assistance to the Armenian Evangelical Church of Cambridge.
- Distribution of Bibles and Christian literature.
- Relief provisions to ministers' widows.

### **Cyprus:**

- Distribution of Bibles and Christian literature.
- Tuition sponsorship of needy students.

Egypt: Support the ministry of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Alexandria, providing Christian literature.

### France:

- Financial assistance to the "Panpere" and "La Lumignon" publications.
- Relief provisions to needy retired teachers and pastors.
- Support for the general ministries of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France.
- Financial assistance towards the renovation of church buildings and camps.
- Support for the "La Source" and "La Fontanelle" Christian Camps.
- Support for the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe.
- Support the ministry of Armand Chekelian in France, Holland and Germany.

## Georgia:

- Support for the ministry of the local Armenian Evangelical Churches.
- Distribution of Bibles and Christian literature.
- Sponsorship of visiting pastors.
- Training of Sunday School teachers and church leaders.
- Relief provisions to needy families.
- Funding of a Summer Youth Camp in Tbilisi.
- Operate a Soup Kitchen.



Summer Youth Camp in Bulgaria



A Resident at the Armenian Old Age Home in Lebanon leading a Bible Study for fellow residents.



**Daily Vacation Bible School** in Ashrafieh (Beirut) Lebanon





Morning Bible Study and Prayer Time at Bedrosian Camp in Shoushi, Karabagh

Haigazian University, Beirut Lebanon



The Armenian Evangelical Community Center of Kessab renovated thanks to the support of Dr. & Mrs. Michael Missakian.

#### Greece:

- Support for the Armenian Evangelical School of Kokkinia.
- Tuition aid to needy students.
- Support for the ministries of the local Armenian Evangelical churches.

**Iran:** Support the ministry of the three Armenian Evangelical Churches in Iran — the Armenian Evangelical St. John Church of Tehran (founded in 1876) and the mission churches of Zarkesh and Majideh (suburbs of Tehran).

### Karabagh:

- · Operation of a Mobile Medical Clinic.
- Relief provisions to 200 orphans and needy children and their families.
- Assistance to schools, nurseries and hospitals
- · Summer camps for undernourished children and orphans.
- Distribution of milk to infants in Stepanakert.
- Provision of medical supplies to local hospitals and relief aid to displaced families.
- Sunday School programs.
- Operation of Kindergartens in Stepanagerd, Askeran, Shoushi, Hartut and Martuni.
- Support language programs and operation of a library in Shoushi.
  - Renovate, furnish and operate the newly acquired camp in Shoushi.
  - Renovate, furnish and operate the Shoushi KG

### Lebanon:

- Support for Haigazian University.
- Yeprem and Martha Philibosian Armenian Evangelical College.
- Armenian Evangelical Central High School.
- · Shamlian-Tatigian Armenian Evangelical Secondary School.
- Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Anjar.
- · Peter and Elizabeth Torossian School.
- · Guertmenian Armenian Evangelical School.
- Armenian Evangelical School of Trad.
- Financial support for the Centers for the Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon.
- Financial aid to Daily Vacation Bible Schools.
- Financial assistance to Christian Endeavor Youth Camps.
- Funding of programs of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center of Trad (Bourdj Hammoud), Lebanon.
- Gifts to the Near East School of Theology (NEST).
- Financial assistance to camps for undernourished children.
- Assistance to the Syriac Evangelical Church.
- Financial assistance towards the budget of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the N.E.
- Establishment and management of a Ministers Pension Fund.
- Special grants to subsidize the salaries of local pastors.
- Provision for the health insurance of the local pastors.

### Russia:

• Support the ministry of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Moscow & Sochi.

#### Syria

- Sponsorship of the education of 600 or more underprivileged school children.
- Financial assistance for the "KCHAG" summer camp in Kessab.
- · Vacation Bible Schools.
- Financial aid to financially weak churches.
- Relief provision to needy retired teachers.
- Financial aid to the Association for the Armenian Blind.
- Financial aid to the Armenian Old Age Home of Aleppo.
- · Special grants to subsidize the salaries of pastors.
- Support for the medical and dental clinics of Christ's Church in Aleppo.
- · Health insurance for the pastors.



- Support for social and relief services.
- Support the work of a youth minster.
- Renovation of the Kessab Community Center.

### **Turkey:**

- Distributing Christian literature.
- Providing for the maintenance of church buildings.
- Sponsoring visiting pastors' ministry in Istanbul.
- Facilitating the fellowship of the churches with other Armenian Evangelical churches.
- Special grant to subsidize the salary of a pastor.

### **United States:**

- Financial support for the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood,
- Financial assistance to St. Nareg Armenian Church of Montebello, CA.
- Financial aid to the Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale, CA.
- Financial aid to the Armenian Evangelical Church of Las Vegas.
- Financial aid to the Armenian Evangelical Church of Utah.
- Financial aid to the Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School of Sherman Oaks, CA.
- Financial aid to the Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School, Pasadena, CA.
- Printing and distribution of Bibles and devotional literature.
- Financial aid to theological students and AEUNA interns.
- Provision of scholarship grants and interest-free loans to 100 needy and college and university students.
- Financial aid to the Ararat Old Age Home in Los Angeles, CA.
- Publication and distribution of books on Armenian history, culture and Christian heritage.
- Organizing literary contests.
- Management of a retirement pension fund for Armenian Evangelical
- Organizing and funding ministers' conferences and leadership enhancement programs.
- Low interest loans for the expansion/relocation projects of churches.
- Cooperation with colleague agencies to respond to the emergency needs of victims of manmade or natural disasters in America or abroad.
- Financial aid to Camp Arev (West Coast) and Camp Arevelk (East Coast).
- Financial aid to the AEUNA's Youth Ministry office.
- Financial aid to AEUNA's publication.

### **Uruguay:**

- Financial assistance towards the budget of the church.
- Relief provisions to needy families.
- Distribution of Bibles and Devotional literature.
- Short-term pastors' ministry.

### MISSION IN NON-ARMENIAN SETTINGS

The AMAA can exist and serve as a Christian missionary organization when its programs reach out not only to Armenians, but to all God's creation ("Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation"). These past few years, the AMAA has been making a deliberate effort to support an increasing number of missionary programs that serve spiritual and physical needs in non-Armenian settings. Recent AMAA contributions to non-Armenian missionary endeavors have included: an orphanage in Mozambique; a special school for the blind in Duala, Cameroon; the Ferraz de Vasconcellos mission center of the Armenian Evangelical Central Church of Sao Paulo, Brazil and emergency relief aid for the victims of the Tsunamis.

May God bless our efforts as we continue to walk in His way and work for His King- Emergency relief aid for the dom.



Worship Service at the Armenian **Evangelical Church of Gedik** Pasha, Turkey



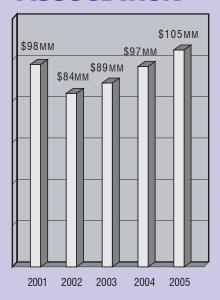
The graduating classes of the Armenian Evangelical Merdinian School of Sherman Oaks, CA



victims of the Tsunamis

# Financial Highlights

# ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION



The Armenian Missionary **Association of America** (AMAA) emphasizes full financial disclosure, accountability and careful stewardship of funds. The financial statements of the AMAA are audited by independent auditors in accordance with guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. This represents a summary of the Financial Statements. The Auditor's report and complete Financial Statements are available from the AMAA upon request.

# Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. Consolidated Statement of Financial Position As of July 31, 2005

Cash	\$	450,280
Accounts Receivable		121,054
Investments:		
Cash Equivalents		7,779,703
Corporate Stocks		71,982,565
Bonds and Notes		12,565,451
Real Estate		9,700,857
Total Investments	\$	102,028,576
Loans Receivable, less allowance for doubtf	ul	
accounts of \$30,000	\$	1,415,400
Land, buildings, and equipment		
at cost, less accumulated		
depreciation of \$ 1,731,698	_	2,421,755
Total Assets	<u>\$ ^</u>	106,437,065
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities and Net Assets  Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses		\$ 24,257
		\$ 24,257 1,404,762
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	-\$	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Custodial Accounts	\$	1,404,762
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Custodial Accounts Total Liabilities	- \$	1,404,762
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Custodial Accounts  Total Liabilities  Net Assets	·	1,404,762 1,429,019
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Custodial Accounts  Total Liabilities  Net Assets Unrestricted	·	1,404,762 1,429,019 2,903,320
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses Custodial Accounts  Total Liabilities  Net Assets Unrestricted Temporarily restricted	·	1,404,762 1,429,019 2,903,320 5,994,725

## Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. Consolidated Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended July 31, 2005

# **Revenues, Gains & Other Support**

Contributions and bequests	\$ 4,385,556
Net realized gains on investments	634,246
Net unrealized gains on investments	4,755,962
Investment income	 3,537,211

#### **Total Revenues, Gains & Other Support** 13,312,975

## **Projects & Activities**

Education	
Child Education	\$ 625,618
General Scholarship	189,047
Leadership & Theological Training	118,929
Haigazian University of Beirut	261,376
Relief	2,510,641
Evangelism	407,160
Churches & Missions	226,941
Publications	64,029
Living Trusts	12,591

# **Supporting Services**

Travel and Hospitality	44,567
Legal Expenses	6,673
Office Administration	703,374
Depreciation	168,046

#### **Total Expenses** 5,338,992

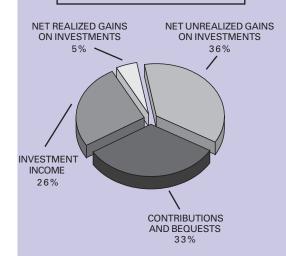
### **Change in Net Assets** 7,973,983

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 97,034,063

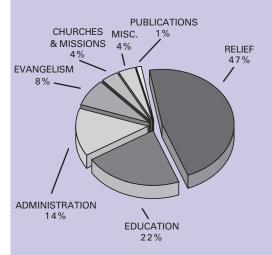
**Net Assets at Year-End** \$105,008,046

# **OPERATIONS**

# Percentage of Income



# Percentage of Expenses



## ARMENIA

# **AMAA** brings Christmas Joy to the children of Armenia

### **Harout Nercessian**

hristmas season is meant to be a time of joy both for children and adults. Unfortunately, the reality does not always correspond with the ideal. For many, Christmas is a reminder of one's loneliness, poverty and sadness. Seeing all the Christmas fun of family reunions, parties, and gifts enjoyed by others, can remind one of what is missing. This is true for both children and adults.

Since the early days of its Armenia ministries, the AMAA has been organizing Christmas programs for tens of thousands of children, to bring them the joy and hope that Christmas has to offer.

During Christmas 2005, AMAA Armenia organized 55 Christmas programs in 46 towns and villages throughout Armenia and Karabagh. Over 20,000 children and parents participated in these programs. The children had fun with Santa, songs and games. Twelve thousand children received Christmas gift packages of candy and educational materials at these programs. Most important though, both parents and children saw, heard and experienced the Christmas message of God's love.

The programs are designed to bring Christmas cheer to and educate the participating children. They consist of dramas that captivate the children, songs that they enjoy hearing, and Santa Claus that they all wait for. The theatrical presentations are stories about children who are changed as they are touched by God on Christmas evening.



Christmas Presentation in Yerevan, Armenia.

In the town of Goris (Southern Armenia), AMAA Christian Education participants presented the drama of an obnoxious princess who is the pain of all the palace residents and servants. Yet, she is changed by two servant children who tell her about Christmas and the love of God. The audience laughed at the mischiefs of the princess and were amazed to see her change by believing in Jesus. The audience was invited to participate in and react to the presentation.

These programs captivate their audiences. In Maralyk, a very poor small town near Gyumri, at the end of the program, the children stayed behind and wanted to sing.

In Tashir, Northern Armenia, little Noune expressed her feelings saying, "I love these programs because I understand the meaning of Christmas. I know how much God loves me". Her mother was most surprised because Noune refuses to attend such programs at school, yet during the last two years she has been attending AMAA ministries.

The participating children are not the only beneficiaries of the program. The children preparing and presenting the programs reap the greatest blessings. They use their time and talents for the glory of God and they develop their God-given skills. These children are most talented and dedicated. In Vanatzor, one of the leading actresses was ill for several days. She was unable to attend the practices. Yet, despite her fever, she did come on the presentation day and played her role. This was a great testimony and encouragement for all the actors and participants.



Children watching the Christmas Program in Goris, Armenia.



Santa Claus distributing Christmas gifts in Alaverti, Armenia.



These programs reach out to those who have no opportunity to participate in such events. Those living in remote regions are rarely exposed to the arts or the Gospel. One of the AMAA programs was carried out in the village of Hardzis, 22 Km (14 miles) North of the city of Goris. The village chief invited the AMAA to do a Christmas program for its children. The village has a population of 750, three hundred of whom are under 18 years of age. A third of the village, attended the program, which was the first of its kind in over 15 years. The participants said that they had never seen a program which had spiritual content and was enjoyable to watch. They invited the AMAA to visit them frequently.

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of AMA-Armenia, and on behalf of the tens of thousands of participating children, we thank those who prayed for and contributed towards these Christmas programs.

We are also very appreciative of the volunteers of the Summer Camp/Christmas Program and the Orphan Child-Care committees. We acknowledge their creative efforts



Santa Claus visiting the children of Ashtarak, Armenia.

at raising funds for and generating awareness of these Christmas programs.

We thank our partner organizations, SEL of France and Dorcas Aid Int.'l of Holland,

for their contributions to these programs. And most important, we praise God for enabling us all to reach out to these children with the love of Jesus Christ.  $\square$ 

# "Children Helping Children" is the Theme for the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Fashion show

The Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel will be the beautiful setting of the AMAA Orphan and Child Care luncheon and fashion show on Saturday, May 6. Paulette Geragos and Leslie Kevorkian, are the co-chairs of this year's event celebrating Children Helping Children.

"We would like to invite everyone who cares about the orphans and underprivileged children of Armenia to participate in this event," said Paulette Geragos who has been working tirelessly to coordinate this luncheon and fashion show.

Jovce Stein, the esteemed advisor and National Co-Chair of the Orphan and Child Care Committee, praised the work of the committee and is excited to hear the children who recently visited the Armenian orphanages and camps speak about their impressions at the luncheon. The children who will speak have been eyewitnesses to the need which exists in Armenia for the continued support of the AMAA.

There will be a children's fashion show which will feature special designs from two boutiques, and a wonderful silent auction which will include such items as golf and lunch at the Wilshire and Annandale Country Clubs, box seats to the Hollywood Bowl, a Chanel wallet, diamond watch, taping of Larry King, and many other spectacular items, which have been gathered by Paulette Geragos, Leslie Kevorkian, Lori Muncherian, Gayane Tatoulian, and other committee members.



Paulette Geragos & Leslie Kevorkian, the cochairs of this year's event, celebrating "Children Helping Children"

"The work of the AMAA is so important. It helps orphanages, schools, orphaned children living with relatives, and handicapped children in Armenia," added Leslie Kevorkian who is excited about this opportunity to co-chair this event and make a difference in the lives of children in Armenia.

You will not want to miss this luncheon—it will be truly spectacular! For more information and tickets call Savey Tufenkian at (818) 241-9818, Elizabeth Agbabian at (310) 476-5306 or Arsine Phillips at (213) 509-4337.

# Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles Celebrates "50 Years of Excellence in Education"

## **Phyllis Hamo**

oncluding a year of 50th anniversary cel ebrations in the U.S. and Beirut, the Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles sponsored the final event, a Jubilee Banquet celebrating "50 years of Excellence in Education," at the Universal Sheraton Hotel on December 7, 2005. The Keynote speaker Edward P. Djerejian, former U.S. Ambassador to both Israel and Syria, was introduced by USC political science professor Dr. H. Richard Dekmejian. Joseph Stein MC'd the event and former Haigazian President Dr. John Khanjian offered the opening prayer.

During his introduction of the Ambassador, Dr. Dekmejian applauded the speaker for becoming our first American Ambassador to Tel Aviv with a non-Jewish background and for his critical work in the peace process, the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, and his efforts toward creating security in the Middle East.

Special guests were introduced, including Anahis Derian who, with her husband Henry, pledged the largest single donation of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, \$500,000 through the AMAA for Haigazian's future building needs and its Armenian Library. In honor of the Derians for their generosity, the Armenian Library will be named the Derian Library.

In attendance were California State Assemblyman Chuck Poochigian (who presented the Ambassador with a proclamation), Rev. Joe Matossian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Consul General of Armenia Gagik Kirakossian, and Maggie Matossian, founding president of the Beirut Women's Auxiliary. The Honorary Jubilee Committee consisted of Ambassador Djerejian, Dr. Vartan Gregorian, Dr. Herant Katchadourian, Ann Kerr, and Carolyn Mugar.

Joyce Stein, President of the Women's Auxiliary welcomed the crowd and thanked all who have supported Haigazian University in its quest for excellence. Elizabeth Agbabian and Suzie Phillips, founding members of the Auxiliary helped celebrate the University's Golden Jubilee and the Auxiliary's 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary with a candle lit cake. The Auxiliary has raised more than one million dollars over four decades.

Surrounded by city lights in the rooftop ballroom, the talented Lark Singers led by accomplished Haigazian graduate Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian provided a beautiful musical program.

Active members of the Women's Auxiliary are Joyce Abdulian, Elizabeth Agbabian, Julie Aharonian, Mary Cabraloff, Phyllis Hamo, Rita Tilkian-Hasserjian,



Elizabeth Agbabian and Susie Phillips with the Haigazian's 50th Anniversary cake

Lucina Agbabian Hubbard, Silva Hussenjian, Hermine Janoyan, Mary Kassabian, Thelma Kevorkian, Grace Kurkjian, Ida Levy, Silva Marounian, Anayis Meguerditchian, Sirvart Mouradian, Hilda Murachanian, Suzie Phillips, Adrienne Sagherian, Dolores Samuelian, and Joyce Stein.



(I to r) Joyce Stein, Elizabeth Agbabian, Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, Grace Kurkjian, Hermine Janoyian and Mary Cabraloff



(I to r) Hermine Janoyan, Dr. John Khanjian, Joyce and Joe Stein, Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, AMAA President Steven H. Aharonian and Hrair Mouradian

# Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Honors Rev. Dr. Carnegie Samuel and **Doris Calian, After 25 Years of Service**

n the evening of January 26, 2006 in the beautiful Grand Ballroom of the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA, a black tie celebratory banquet in honor of Rev. Dr. Carnegie Samuel and Doris Calian was given by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Dr. Carnegie Samuel Calian began his association with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1981 as President and Professor of Theology. He came to Pittsburgh from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary where he had served on the faculty since 1963. Born in New York City, raised in Los Angeles, Calian earned his Bachelor of Arts from Occidental College, his Bachelor of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Doctorate, magna cum laude, from the University of Basel.

Calian is the author of 11 books and more than 200 articles and reviews including his most recent book, The Ideal Seminary: Pursuing Excellence in Theological Education (WJK 2001). An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he speaks widely throughout the



Andy Torigian, with Dr. & Mrs. Carnegie and Doris Calian.

United States and abroad. He has been married to Doris for 46 years. They are the parents of three grown children and have nine grandchildren.

Dr. Calian has been active with the AMAA for many years. He has presented special lectures for both ministers and lay people at the AMAA. He was the keynote speaker at the Haigazian University (H.U.) Founder's Day Program in Beirut, Lebanon. He currently serves as a member of the H.U. Board of Trustees.□

# **Stepan Simonian Debuts at New York's Carnegie Recital Hall January 12**

Russian born of Armenian extraction, Stepan began private lessons with the noted pianist Armen Babakhanian, whom Simonian credits for his artistic development. This year he graduated with distinction from the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

Stepan has performed with the celebrated Moscow Chamber Orchestra and its conductor Constantine Orbelian.

In Palm Desert, California last year, Simonian won the prestigious Virginia Waring Competition, garnering top prize out of over twenty contestants worldwide.

Among those attending a special reception in his honor were UN Ambassador Armen Martirosyan, Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of Carnegie Foundation, Andrew Torigian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association, and Joyce and Joseph Stein. Mrs. Stein who is the President of the stephen Philibosian foundation, sits on the board of the Competition.



(I to r) Rose & Andy Torigian, AMAA Executive Director, Pianist Lucy Ishkanian, Stepan Simonian and Joyce Stein.

## とはるせいとし らはみかし

# ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻԻՆ ՏՆՏԵՍՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ

Ըսաւ անոնց. «Բանեցուցէ՛ք ատոնք մինչեւ ես գամ»: (Ղուկ. 19. 13)

Տէրը ըսաւ անոր. «Ապրի՛ս, բարի ու հաւատարիմ ծառայ... մտի՛ր քու տիրոջդ ուրախութեան մէջ։ (Մատթ. 25. 21)

## Վեր. Գրիգոր Եումուշաքեան

իկեղեցին՝ Տէր Յիսուսի վկան ըլլալով, մարտա Մհրաւէր ունի ծառայելու Աստուծոյ դաշտին մեջ, հաւատարմօրէն ու յստակ տեսիլքով։ Եկեղեցին՝ հաւատարիմ րլլալու համար իր այս կոչումին, պէտք ունի նաեւ շիտակ ու յստակ պատկերացումի մր՝ տնտեսու-թեան մասին, որուն մասին յաճախ կր խօսի Տէր Ցիսուս։

Տնտեսութիւն միայն տալ չի նշանակեր։ Այլ անիկա ապրուած կեանքի մր ոճ է, ամէն մարզի մէջ։ Տալր, անոր մէկ փոքր մասն է։ Տնտեսութիւն չի նշանակեր եկեղեցիի եկամուտ, այլ Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոսի նուիրուած անձերու ապրելակերպ։ Նաեւ, տնտեսութիւնը պարտաւորութիւն չէ, այլ հնազանդութիւն։ Հշմարիտ տնտեսութիւնը չի կրնար սկսիլ քու կեանքիդ մէջ, եթէ սկսած չ՝ըլլայ քու սրտիդ մէջ։

Երբ խօսինք տնտեսութեան մասին Յիսուսի պատմած Մնասներու առակին լոյսին տակ (Ղուկ. 19. 1-28), երկու հիմնական բառերու անդրադառնալու են ք։

1. *Ցանձնուած*։ Ազնուական հարուստ մարդը իր ծառաներուն վստահելով, իր բոլոր ունեցածր անոնց կը յանձնէ ու կը կանչէ տնտեսներ ըլլալու։ Տէրը անոնց հոգատարութեան կր վստահի բաւական մեծ գումար ու մեծ պատասխանատուութիւն։

Աստուած մեզի ալ տաղանդներ տուած է, առակին մէջ յիշուած ծառաներուն նման։ Աստուած մեզի յանձնած է կեանք, ժամանակ, գանձեր ու զանազան պարգեւներ, ինչպէս նաեւ Աւետարանն ու անոր մէջ ընդգրկուած բարի լուրը։ Աստուած մեզի յանձնած է, ինչ որ Իրն է ու կր սպասէ, որ մեն ք հաւատարիմ տնտեսներ րլյանք։

2. Ճամբորդութիւն։ Տէրը որոշ ժամանակի մր համար կր ձգէ երկիրը ու կ'երթայ իր թագաւորութիւնը առնելու։ Ան ետ պիտի գայ ու հաշիւ պահանջէ իր ծառաներէն։ Այսպէս ըսած, Ան կ'ակնկայէ, որ Իր ծառաները իրենց հաշիւները ներկայացնեն՝ երբ Ինք վերադառնայ։ Ծառաներէն իւրաքանչիւրը գիտէ, թէ երբ Տէրը վերադառնայ, ակնկայութիւն պիտի ունենայ իւրաքանչիւրէն։ Անոնք որ կր բանեցնեն ու շահ կը բերեն, Տէրոց գնահատանքին ու օրհնութեան կ'արժանանան։ Սակայն, այն ծառան, որ նոյնիսկ չի փորձեր իրեն վստահուած տաղանդր գործածել, կր նկատուի չար ու ծոյլ։ Տէրը հաշիւ պահանջելու դիրքին մէջ է, սակայն չար ու անհաւատարիմ ծառան չունի տալիք հաշիւ։ Ուստի անոր վախճանը կ'րլլայ սոսկալի ու դատապարտութեան արժանի։

Ինչ որ ունինք, Աստուած Ինք մեզի տուած է։ Եթէ մեզի յանձնուած ու վստահուած տաղանդները լաւապէս գործածենք եւ պատրաստ րլյանք հայուետուութեան՝ հաւատարիմ տնտեսներու նման, արժանի պիտի րլլանք վարձատրութեան։ Ինչ որ ունինք, Աստուած ինք մեզի տուած է։ Գործածե՛նք զանոնք լաւ ու օգտակար ձեւով եւ արժանի րլյանք Տէրոջ գնահատանքին։ Այս ընելով պիտի արձանագրեն ք *յաջողութիւն* ու վայելեն ք Աստուծոյ առատ օրհնութ-իւնը:

Ոմանք յաջողութիւնը կր սահմանեն իրենց րնտանիքներուն ունեցած առողջութիւնով եւ բարեկեցութիւնով, ուրիշներ՝ իրենց ունեցած նիւթական կայունութիւնով։ Սակայն, Աստուածաշունչը կու տայ մեզի այլ տեսակի սահմանում մր։ Տնտեսութեան մէջ յաջողութիւն կր նշանակե

1. Հասատարմութիւն. Առակին մէջ լիշուած ծառաներուն տնտեսութեան պատասխանատուութիւն տրուած է տիրոջ բոլոր ունեցածին։ Ակնկալութիւնը այն է, որ անոնք հաւատարիմ րլյալով, ընեն այն՝ ինչ որ Տէրը Ինք պիտի ընէր։ Տնօրինել այնպիսի ձեւով, որ համաձայն է Իր կամքին։ Հաւատարիմ րլյալու համար, նախ մեր ունեցածով գոհ բլլալ պէտք է եւ ապա՝ գործածել զանոնք։

2. *ԶԱստուած փառաւորել*. Տէրը տեսնելով ծառային աշխատանքը հաճեցաւ ու ըսաւ «Ապրի՛ս»։ Տնտեսութեան մէջ յաջող րլլալու համար Տէրը հանեցնել պէտք է, ո՛չ թէ մարդիկ։ Հաւատարիմ տնտեսը կը փորձէ մի միայն իր Տէրը հաճեցնել։

3. Աստուծոյ Ուրախութիւնը. Տէրը գնահատելով ծառային հաւատարիմ տնտեսութիւնը, կր հրաւիրէ զայն մտնելու իր ուրախութեան մէջ։ Ճիշդ այստեղ կր կայանայ իսկական յաջողութեան սիրտր։ Կան շատեր, որոնք մեծ գումարներ կր վաստակին, առեւտրական մարզին մէջ կ'արձանագրեն բացառիկ յաջողութիւններ եւ կր հիմնեն մեծ ընկերութիւններ, սակայն չունին ուրախութիւն։

Ցաջող տնտեսներ րլլալու համար, մեր բոլոր շահերը վնաս սեպելու ենք Աստուծոյ համար։ Պօդոս Առաքեալ գիտէր, թէ իսկական ուրախութիւնը կու գար Աստուծոյ սրտէն։

Մենք բնաւ ուրախ պիտի չըլլանք, եթէ Ցիսուս Քրիստոսի գիտութեան եւ հնազանդութեան մէջ չրլլանք։ Տնտեսին յաջողութիւնը հաւատարմութեան, ուրախութեան եւ «Ապրի՛ս»ին մէջ է։ 🗆

## **OBITUARIES**

### Karoun Janbazian

Karoun Janbazian was born in 1907 in Bitias, Mousa Dagh to Sarkis and Sara Baghdoians. At age 7, with her parents she went up the mountain during the historic 40 Days of Musa Dagh Arme-



nian Resistance agains the Turks. With her family and the inhabitants of the 7 villages of Musa Dagh they were deported to Egypt. After 4 years they returned to Musa Dagh. At an early age, Karoun worked with her father to take care of the needs of her family. At age 21 she lost her father.

Karoun married Hovhannes Janbazian at age 22. They were blessed with four children: Shamiram, Garabed, Melineh and Bedros. In 1939 with the people of Musa Dagh, Karoun and her family as well came to Lebanon and settled in Anjar. Their son Bedros died when he was 6 months old. Karoun worked very hard with her husband to take care of her children until they all got married and formed their own families.

In 1972, Karoun and her husband made another move and this time they went to Melbourne, Australia, to be with their children and their families. In 1986, she lost her husband and in 1993 she lost her daughter,

During the 33 years in Australia, Karoun enjoyed the love and respect of her children, her 10 grandchildren and 10 great grand-children. She was an exemplary mother.

Karoun went to be with her Lord on December 25, 2005 at the age of 98. Karoun kept her faith until the end. Indeed, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ." (Rev. 14:13)

### Alice Levonian

Alice was born in Cairo, Egypt on November 28, 1961 to Levon and Takouhi Levonian. As a young child, with her family she settled in Sydney, Australia and attended the local



high school and later went on to Law School and graduated with high marks. At an early age, she also attended the Armenian Cultural Association's and the Armenian General Benevolent Union's (AGBU) Armenian Saturday Schools. After her graduation she served as an assistant teacher and later as a teacher in the AGBU's Saturday School for 25 years. She also served in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney for many years.

Alice was employed by the Australia's Central Link Social Services for more than 13 vears, until her illness. During her employment. she was always praised for her deligent service by her employees and colleagues. She always loved her Armenian nation and her motherland, Armenia. She travelled to Armenia twice and wished to be a voluntary soldier for the freedom of Karabagh. However, as she was unable to do that, she educated and prepared a generation of Armenians with the love of Armenia and Karabagh.

Alice was good natured and she demonstrated love, compassion and dedication to her loved ones, to her church, to her country and to all the Armenian Associations she served.

She struggled against a cruel illness until the end with patience, not showing her pain to her loved ones. She made the transition from this earth to the eternal on January 23, 2006 in the presence of her loved ones.

### E. Howard Bedrossian

E. Howard Bedrossian, 84, of Drexel Hill, an ophthalmologist, died of heart failure Sunday, January 15, 2006.

Raised in Drexel Hill, he graduated from Upper Darby High School in



1938, from Haverford College in 1942, and from Temple University Medical School in

He interned at Episcopal Hospital and then served in the US Army Air Corps from 1946-48 as a flight surgeon. He also served for 57 years with the FAA as an aviation medical examiner, one of the longest service records. Following his military service. Dr. Bedrossian earned a Master of Medical Science at the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. After serving his residency he took over his late father's ophthalmologic practice in Drexel Hill, sharing it with his son, Ned, for the last 23 years.

For ever 40 years, Dr. Bedrossian taught Ophthalmology both at the University of Pennsylvania and at Thomas Jefferson Universy. He was attending surgeon at Wills Eye and Graduate Hospitals and Chief of the Department of Ophthalmology at Delaware County Memorial Hospital for many years. He was also the first Chief of Ophthalmology at Riddle Memorial Hospital. He was author of two books and numerous journal articles, and member of many professional organizations. He was active practicing Medicine until June 2005.

Dr. Bedrossian is survived by his wife Adelle: his three children. Trinda Bedrossian Ristau, Edward H. Bedrossian, Jr. MD, and William Bedrossian; two stepsons, Jeffery and Charles Parsons; 19 grandchildren; two great grandsons; his sister, Doris Bedrossian Bobb; his brother, Robert Bedrossian, MD; and his former wife Rosetta Buyanowski.

A funeral service was held on January 21, 2006 at the Riverview Presbyterian Church in Drexel Hill.

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submited to us for publication in the AMAA News

Helvacian, Vartuhi Fort Lee, NJ

- Apovian, Haig Balabanian Stepanian, Eugenie Aleppo, Syria
- Der Krikorian, Noubar Cliffside Park, NJ Garabedian, Howard Westmont, NJ Hajenian, Helen Dallas, TX Kobadjian, Varsenig
- Maranjian, Berj Westwood, MA
- Melcon, Marion (Queenie) Hawthorne, NJ
- Sapsezian, Serpuhi Lake Forest, CA
- Sheets Bedrosian, Anne
- Memorials designated for AMAA

## **Music Director Sought**

The United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, California, is seeking to fill the position of Music Director. Qualified candidates are invited to contact Mrs. Agnes Darakjian (agnesmathc@aol.com or 818-952-3770) for a job description and further information.

# ARMENIAN BIBLES PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN ALPHABET

We are happy to announce that the newly printed Armenian Reference Bibles (in regular sizes 5.5" by 8.5") have arrived and are available now. This reprint of the Bible was published for the Armenian Missionary Association of America on the occasion of the 1600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Alphabet.

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